GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:770
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2007
TURKMENISTAN -AFGHANISTAN- PAKISTAN GAS PIPE LINE PROJECT
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is planning to join Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan Gas Pipe Line Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Asian Development has also agreed to India's joining the project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the outcome of the discussions held in this regard in Islamabad between 28th and 29th October, 2007?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) to (d): The Governments of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan have proposed a transnational gas pipeline to exploit the available gas reserves in Turkmenistan. They designated ADB as the lead development partner. ADB had carried out a study and approached India for participating in the project. An Indian delegation led by Hon'ble Shri Dinsha Patel, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas visited Ashgabat, Turkmenistan to participate in the 9th Steering Committee Meeting of the countries participating in Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TAP) Gas Pipeline Project held on February 14-15, 2006 as an 'Observer'. The Steering Committee invited India to become an official member of the project. The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas brought the matter before the Cabinet in May 2006 after inter-Ministerial discussions. The Cabinet in the meeting held on 18th May 2006, accorded an 'in principle' approval to the proposal for India joining the TAP project. The decision of the Government of India to join Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan Gas Pipeline Project as an official member was conveyed to ADB in June 2006. ADB circulated the revised draft Framework Agreement amongst the participating countries for their comments after the first meeting of Technical Working Group held in April 2007 for inclusion of Indian as an official member of the project.

(e): Government is not aware of the discussions relating to TAP project held in Islamabad on October 28-29, 2007. However, the next meeting of the Steering Committee of the participating countries is scheduled to be held on November 28 and 29, 2007 in Islamabad.